

FACT SHEET ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAPROFESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN NCLB ACT

2002-03 Guidelines: April 2003

All paraprofessionals who work in Title I schoolwide schools or Title I targeted assistance programs must meet the qualifications outlined in section 1119(c) and (d) of the NCLB Act of 2001.

- All **new paraprofessionals** hired after January 8, 2002 who work in Title I schoolwide schools or Title I targeted assistance programs must have—
 - completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher education
 - obtained an associates' or higher degree; or
 - passed a test that demonstrates the competencies outlined in section 1119(c) of NCLB.
- **Existing paraprofessionals** hired on or before January 8, 2002 who work in Title I schoolwide schools or Title I targeted assistance programs must meet the requirements by January 8, 2006.
- The State Department of Education will complete the test adoption process for the ETS ParaPro Assessment that measures the necessary knowledge and skills identified in section 1119(c) on May 2, 2003. The recommended passing score for the ParaPro test is 456. Information about this test is available on the ETS web site at <http://www.ets.org/parapro/index.html>. A study guide for the ParaPro is available and can be ordered from the ETS web site above or by calling 800-537-3161. The cost of the study guide is \$25.
- All paraprofessionals newly hired during 2002-03 that have not completed two years of college or hold an associates degree or higher, must pass the state test prior to being re-hired in a Title I school or program for the 2003-04 school year.
- Paraprofessionals may take the ParaPro test in two different settings. They can register for the paper and pencil version with ETS, or school districts can order the on-line version for their paraprofessionals to take on-site. The cost of the test is \$40. Check with your Human Resource Director or Title I Director for information on these options.
- To meet the educational requirements in Section 1119, the State equates a minimum of 48 semester hours (excluding remedial courses), as the equivalent of two years of college. The State does not require that the coursework or associate's degree be in any specific subject or field.
- The Department has collaborated with the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) in the development of an on-line associate's degree program for paraprofessionals. Information about the on-line degree is on the TBR web site at <http://www.tn.regentsdegrees.org/>.
- Aides that are working as translators or parent liaisons do not need to meet these requirements. However, all paraprofessionals, including translators and parent liaisons, must now have, at a minimum, earned a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent.
- School districts may use their federal funds under Title I or Title II to help pay for the costs of coursework, training, professional development or test fees to assist paraprofessionals in meeting these requirements.